

AGENDA **MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday January 15, 2009
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

DEQ Directors Conference Room
1520 East 6th Avenue, Helena MT

9:00 am. Gather for Coffee and Conversation with Colleagues.

9:15 am. Welcome and Introductions.

Lynda Saul, DEQ Wetland Program Manager, Wetland Council Chair.

Round-robin self-introductions. Set the stage for the meeting focus:
Integrating wetlands into watershed restoration planning and restoration activities.

9:30 am. Strategic Framework Working Group Reports.

Lynda Saul, DEQ. Vulnerable Wetland and Public Policy Working Group.

Linda Vance, MTNHP. Mapping, Assessment and Monitoring Working Group.

Tom Hinz, DFWP. Restoration Working Group.

Steve Carpenedo, DEQ. Public Education and Professional Training Working Group.

9:50 am. DEQ's Total Maximum Daily Load Program.

Dean Yashan, TMDL Watershed Management Section DEQ.

This overview of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) program will include legal requirements, TMDL development steps, current status of TMDL progress, and major types and causes of impairments in Montana. In addition, this presentation will provide examples of the science behind TMDL development and discuss linkages with wetland protection and enhancement. Particular examples relating to riparian areas along streams and connections to other water quality restoration activities will be discussed.

10:15 am. DEQ's Nonpoint Source Management Program and Watershed Restoration. *Robert Ray, Watershed Protection Section DEQ.*

DEQ's Nonpoint Source Management Program provides funding for watershed groups and others to reduce nonpoint source pollution consistent with TMDLs. Developing scientifically-based, locally supported Watershed Restoration Plans provides opportunities to integrate wetland and riparian protection and restoration into actions that achieve water quality and other goals. Clean Water Act Section 319 grant information and examples of voluntarily implemented riparian and wetland restoration projects and opportunities will be provided.

10:40 Break

11:00 am. A watershed-based approach to restoring wetland-riparian resources and fisheries habitat on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Rusty Sydnor, CSKT Natural Resources Department, Fisheries Program

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are engaged in a watershed-scale restoration effort in the Jocko River drainage. This presentation will provide an overview of: 1) project funding, 2) overall restoration goals, 3) identification and prioritization of projects, and 4) projects completed to date. The importance of protecting and/or restoring wetland and riparian habitat in achieving the Tribes' restoration goals will be emphasized during the presentation. Case studies of wetland/riparian restoration work in other watersheds will also be provided.

11:45 – 12:45 Lunch Break*

12:45 pm. Wetland Restoration Using Native Plants.

Tara Luna, MT Natural Heritage Program

Planning, design and selection of native plant materials for wetland restoration must be based on the project objectives, species and stock type characteristics, outplanting timing and appropriate tools. Case studies of riparian and wetland restoration projects illustrating the importance of these factors will be presented.

1:25 pm. Tools for Restoration Planning and Review.

Peter Skidmore, Skidmore Restoration Consulting, LLC

Collaborative effort among federal and state resource agencies, restoration practitioners, and academic researchers to develop resources and tools to improve aquatic restoration projects in the western U.S. Peer reviewed document will include 1) science synthesis, 2) project information checklist, and 3) project evaluation and planning tool.

2:05 pm. Mini break

2:20 pm. Integrating Wetlands into Watershed Planning and Activities.

Lynda Saul, Wetland Program Coordinator DEQ

Facilitated discussion. How can wetlands be better integrated into watershed plans and activities? How can these plans and restoration activities value and protect the inherent worth of wetlands and riparian areas and not solely rely on them as water quality filters?

3:00 pm. Wetland Updates and Coordination Reports.

Brief round-robin reports from Council participants and other organizations. Update and recruit for Council Steering Committee and Working Groups. Please bring written copy of your update for meeting summary.

4:00 pm. Set date for Next Wetland Council Meeting and Adjourn.

* Lunch is on your own. There are several restaurants within walking distance or you are welcome to bring your lunch and join your colleagues in the meeting room.

The Montana Wetland Council meets three times a year and is an active network of diverse interests that works cooperatively to conserve and restore Montana's wetland and riparian ecosystems by implementing Montana's Strategic Framework. Everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information contact Lynda Saul, Montana DEQ, (406) 444-6652 or lsaul@mt.gov